

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

BLUE IS THE COLOUR VIOLENCE IS THE GAME

The clashes in Dalston and Stoke Newington between police and local people on the weekend of 10-12 July were the culmination of several days of tension, caused mainly by police tactics.

Local traders had been told repeatedly to board up shops because the police were expecting trouble, and this created an unreal siege-like atmosphere in both Kingsland and Stoke Newington High Streets. There were also a number of raids on Johnson's, a West Indian cafe in Sandringham Road, which was to become the focus for the worst disturbances.

After groups of youths had gathered on various street corners police presence in the area was increased dramatically throughout the week. Trouble became inevitable when the police tried to prevent people going down Sandringham Road, to gather outside Johnson's. On the Friday night, there were at least two baton charges by police to clear Sandringham Road. Policemen were lashing out wildly with truncheons - aiming at the head, in direct contravention of the Metropolitan Police Standing Orders - and many people were injured, including a Hackney People's Press reporter, who was standing in the doorway of the Rio Cinema. He was taken to the Hackney Hospital, and had three stitches in a scalp wound. Our reporter writes:

"The casualty ward of the hospital was like a battlefield. A number of people

were being treated for head wounds. I spoke to two 16-year old white youths who had been attacked. One of them had been truncheoned and kicked while outside the Rio, at the same time as me. Another had been attacked with a group of friends while on his way home to Stoke Newington. With his head bleeding from a wound, he and his friends walked all the way from Sandringham Road to Hackney Hospital.

While at the hospital I saw uniformed and plain-clothes police writing down the names and addresses of people being treated. They were being helped to do this by at least one member of the administrative staff."

In Stoke Newington on the same night there was repeated use of violent police tactics to clear the streets

Johnson's Cafe.



Our reporter was threatened by this policeman with getting his camera smashed. Shortly after, he was clubbed to the ground by another, and had to have stitches put in a head wound.

of people, many of whom were innocent by-standers and spectators. Several times Transit vans full of police were driven very fast down narrow roads and up onto pavements. Coachloads of police would suddenly rush out of their buses and chase off local people, lashing out wildly with their truncheons. HPP knows of a number of people who were attacked and arrested on that evening. In most of these cases criminal charges are now pending, which makes any comment on them at the moment difficult, but it is quite clear that random attacks and arrests were being made, on the assumption that anyone around on the streets deserved what they got.

On the Saturday, there were further disturbances during the afternoon, particularly in the Sandringham Road area. A pincer movement by police to try and clear

Continued on p.3



Paul McGowan

Funking the Wedding

About three thousand people gathered in Clissold Park on the day of the wedding ("What Wedding") for a music festival organised by Rock against Racism. The weather was hot, the bands (Movement, Tribesmen and Monkey Business) were good, there were lots of stalls. All in all, it was a much better way of spending the afternoon than being stuck in the Mall...

£20,000 BILL TO BE PAID

Although the pro-royalist authorities are quick to point out how that wedding boosted our economy through the merchandising of flags, mugs, T-shirts, posters, etc., no-one has yet counted the cost to the tax-payer of the most expensive wedding of the decade.

One of the many public bodies which were forced to cough up our money on their behalf was the Health Service. Despite the savage cutbacks that have been made recently to our hospitals, it was revealed in the Guardian in June that Health Authorities were asked to find £20,000 to meet the overtime payments made to staff on the Wedding Day.

The situation was worse in Hackney because in addition to the £20,000 overtime they had to provide an unspecified

sum to pay for stand-by medical cover at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The City & Hackney Community Health Council asked the Local Area Health Authority just where the money was coming from. They were told that although stand-by arrangements would be provided for contingencies, hospitals would be running below their normal standard and "there may well be economies to be made".

Sorry

We're sorry that this issue of HPP is a little late. We were beset by various production difficulties, which have also meant that the paper is only 6 pages. We hope to be back to full size by September.

INSIDE

MARXIST INFLUENCE IN SDP EXPOSED!
See INSIDE LEFT p.2.

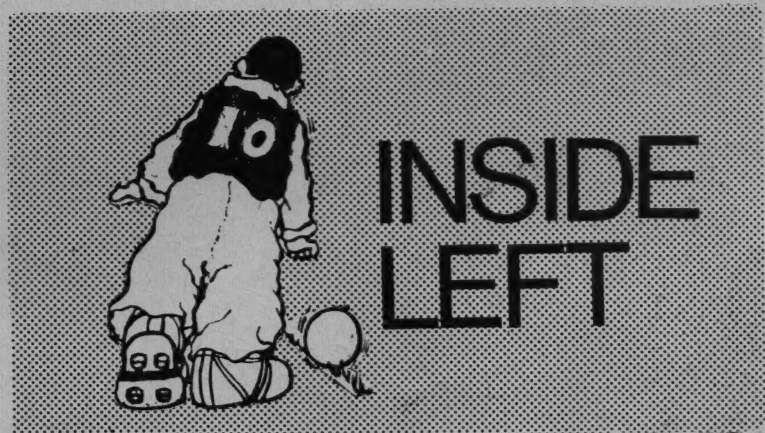
HOMELESS IN HACKNEY: SHOCK REPORT p.3.
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'BREAKING THE MOULD'

Is Northfield Ward to be Hackney's Warrington? Will self-confessed Marxist Denis Trim join the SDP and hold his seat in a Council election against the anarchists in the Labour Party? These are the questions that you are expecting me to answer this month, and so I shall.

I predicted last month that next year's Council elections are likely to leave the new left in power, with probably only 10 or 12 of the real Old Guard on the Council likely to remain. Liberal claims of winning the whole of Shoreditch are still preposterous, in my judgement, but it is quite likely that there will be some rub-off from national politics, where it is clear that the SDP is making an impression - on the media at least. So we could see a few Liberals and SDP members on the Council. But are they likely to sweep to power? I think not.

The Labour Party lost Hackney once before - to the Tories in 1968. While 1968 was a year of revolution in other parts of the globe - students and workers together almost toppled de Gaulle in France - Hackney, and other safe London boroughs, had their own distinctive changes too. They went over to the Conservatives. What a disaster! Old Guard Labour people have never forgotten it. Indeed there are times when



Council leaders like Johnny Kotz can talk of anything else. So deep is the awful memory etched into local Labour Party folklore.

"Breaking the mould" of British politics, which is what SDP leaders claim is going to happen after Warrington, would have to be well and truly achieved if a borough Council like Hackney was to be lost to the SDP/Liberals.

There are probably parts of the country where local Liberals are a good deal more radical than the local Labour Party. Indeed, in some parts of the country it would be possible to find Conservatives more radical than the local Labour Party. This is not the case in Hackney. There is no evidence that in Hackney they are anything other than well-meaning and pathetic.

And if the local SDP is

to be led by unreconstructed Labour politicians like Denis Trim, then there is not much hope for them, either.

Surprising as it might seem to some people, this column is concerned with socialist policies and radical solutions. Probably the most active force in local politics is the Communist Party. This has the distinction of being one of the few local branches of the Communist Party to be growing while the Party nationally is gripped by terminal falling numbers. This means that Hackney Communists are regarded by many old hardliners as either frilly lefties or, conversely, right-wingers. But it has to be said that there is hardly a "progressive" (an instantly identifiable CP adjective) organisation in Hackney that is not well and truly influenced by local Communists.

However hard local Communists try, they find it difficult to translate this level of political activity into electoral support. Many years ago there were two Communist councillors in Hackney, but since then they have rarely managed to raise their votes above an almost derisory level. There are two reasons for this failure. One is the stigma of being a Communist. Year after year of anti-socialist propaganda do have their effect, after all. The other is the serious political problem that to a great extent their policies are not much different from Labour left-wingers. Indeed their manifestoes - and the much-vaunted British Road to Socialism - stress the importance of working with left-wing elements inside the Labour Party. So why should peo-

ple vote for them when they can vote for left policies with the Labour Party. (The answer is, of course, that they don't always get left policies when they vote for the Labour Party, but there we are...).

It will, I am afraid to say, require a much bigger upset than that of Warrington, or last month's by-election for Lambeth Council when Labour lost two safe seats to the SDP/Liberals, for the great change in British politics required to elect a council in Hackney committed to radical socialist policies, not afraid to put them into practice. We certainly won't get that in Hackney if the clar-et-swillers of Limehouse and Westminster get their way and make inroads into Hackney's affairs. To oppose them effectively will require a strength of purpose and a degree of commitment hardly seen yet amongst the ranks of Hackney's Labour Party. The Hackney Gazette is already calling for the end to all the one-man oppositions in the Council chamber. We can be assured that that terrible organ will be right in behind Denis Trim and Jeffrey Roberts and all their motley crews. Who will be behind Johnny Kotz and the gang of 57? We wait and see...

Sexist Ads

The Hackney Gazette is in trouble again - because of the advertisements it carries!



Local readers complained to the National Council for Civil Liberties about ads for "Experienced attractive barmaids" and the like, which are frequently to be found in the Gazette. This directly contravenes Section 38 of the Sex Discrimination Act, which says that most jobs in businesses employing six or more staff must be open to both women and men. The NCCL has raised the matter with the Advertisement Unit of the Equal Opportunities Commission. NCCL Women's Rights Officer Ann Sedley told HPP that newspapers should show more concern for, and interest in, changing attitudes: "Equality of opportunity does not rely on physical attributes."

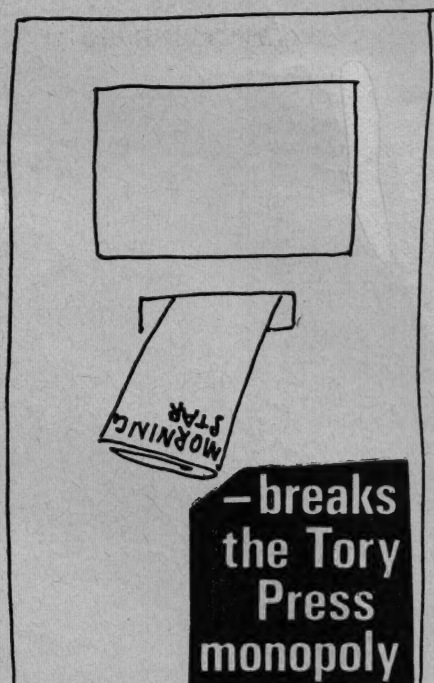
ADVERTISEMENT

Hackney TENANT

The monthly newspaper of the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations
From newsagents everywhere... 10p

You can't 'live' in Hackney without it!

Read the Morning Star every day



WELCOME

available from your newsagent

Dear Hackney
People's Press!
Hope you are all
as well as
usual.
I'll see
you soon.

LETTERS

Dear HPP

You will know already that an arson attack was attempted on our premises in St Paul's Road during the early hours of Monday, 29 June. We are writing to inform you that this has not prevented us from operating the presses and darkroom, and we are working normally. However, our upstairs rooms are almost gutted: the typesetting service is temporarily suspended although we are referring work to another typesetting collective who have offered us their help.

The fire was started in two parts of the building, and we don't know exactly who is responsible. We feel that there may be a link between this and an attack on Sheila Malone, a worker at the "Other Bookshop" in Islington. About three weeks before, skinheads coshed her on the head, fracturing her skull and left a tape with Nazi slogans on it. Both we and that bookshop are on a hit-list published some months ago in a local National Front news-sheet. Whilst we have no direct proof, it seems likely that there were political motives for the attack.

Parts of the building, especially those used by Islington Play Bus and Play Association, are gutted but the rest is mostly in reasonable condition, if a little dirty! So we hope you will continue to use our services: we are more in need of work now than ever before. We will need to do a lot of the replacing and renovating ourselves, but with very limited financial resources. We would also welcome any donations which you or your readers could make to help us because insurance repayments will not cover our costs.

Yours

Community Press Collective

Dear HPP,

Your article in last month's HPP on the GLC/London Transport meeting at Hackney Town Hall was more or less the same as I wrote, more briefly, in a letter to the Hackney Gazette. However, we do have points of disagreement.

I believe the GLC had already made up their minds as to which of the four options they were going to adopt before the meeting had started: the Chairperson, Councillor Ross, seemed to have no knowledge as to how a chairperson should behave. How could a vote of about 60 people represent the million or so people in North and East London? And how can you believe that everybody will pay less from October?

In the Outer London zone long-distance passengers benefit but short-distance passengers will still suffer. The same applies to the other zones and why it is necessary to have separate zones for the City and West End I don't know!

Finally, your statement: "with more buses on the road next winter...." Will there be more buses on the road? I don't find any improvement at the moment.

Fraternally,
Douglas Kepper.

VIOLENCE IS THE GAME

Continued from p.1.

the streets led to further violence and a number of arrests. Residents of St. Mark's Rise were disturbed during the afternoon by groups of police chasing youths through their gardens.

In one incident the police commander himself, Commander Howlett, arrested a man outside the Rio Cinema, during a conversation with a Hackney Councillor and the Secretary of the Hackney Council for Racial Equality. The man has now been charged with insulting behaviour after he had shouted at the group of people talking.

By the Sunday, the situation was a lot calmer, but there was still a massive police presence on the streets. Coachloads of them seemed to be permanently parked in Sandringham Road, and a new style of Transit van, with iron grids over the windscreen to prevent it being smashed, was seen outside

Stoke Newington police station.

The organisers of two local festivals held that weekend at London Fields and Stoke Newington Common, were asked by the police to cancel their festivities. Both of these refused and, of course, there was no trouble at all.

Since that weekend the inquests have started. A Hackney Legal Defence Committee has been set up and has started helping those arrested and attacked by the police during the various incidents. Already more than 50 people have been contacted by the Committee, most of whom will appear in court during August.

The Borough Council, Hackney Council for Racial Equality and Hackney Community Action have all come forward in condemning police behaviour on Hackney's streets that weekend. Below we report on a number of these initiatives.

POLICE NEED CONTROL

A proposal for community control over the police, made by the new chair of the GLC Police Committee, Paul Boateng, was overwhelmingly supported at a meeting in Hackney Town Hall the week after the riots in Dalson and Stoke Newington.

London is the only part of the country where the local authority has no control over the police at all. The authority in London is the Home Secretary, whereas everywhere else there is a committee made up of local councillors and other worthies.

Dudley Dryden, the chair of HCRE, described how that afternoon a deputation from the Council and HCRE had had a meeting with Commander Howlett, who is in charge of the police throughout the whole of Hackney. Howlett had told them he was under no obligation to see them.

Paul Boateng talked about the drift towards a police state. "It is crucial that we get the whole idea of the accountability of the police on to the agenda," he said. "The idea is often seen as part of a left-wing conspiracy to discredit the police, when in fact it was first proposed by London Liberals in 1882. It is an idea which owes nothing to Trotsky and everything to Gladstone."

He talked about how the Government used the police quite nakedly to hold the government line. "Margaret Thatcher is directly responsible for the events of recent days," he said.

He described the fight to win a police authority for London as a political battle. The intellectual arguments had all been won: every committee had recommended it, even the City of London, with its own police force, had a police authority.

He was also keen to devise a structure that involved the community as a whole. A structure was needed at borough level, representing community interests, as well as councillors and GLC members.

MONEY

Hackney Council leader John Kotz was the next to speak. He described how year after year council leaders were summoned to Scotland Yard to be told how much money they had to raise to pay the police precept for the year.

Various speakers from the floor detailed evidence of racist attitudes in the police. An Anti Nazi League member criticised Paul Boateng for proposing a system of monitoring which would get nowhere. Paul Boateng replied that he was not concerned with the sterile collection of information. He criticised the ANL for "leading from behind". He talked about the trials after last year's Bristol riots, which had defence committees which picketed courts, packed the public gallery and generally demonstrated public support for people in court.

The Council debated what they called "the disturbances" at the full Council meeting at the end of July. Once again, blame was laid at the door of the Government for withdrawing money from the inner cities in favour of the shire counties.

Several councillors pointed out that the Council itself had to put its own house in order: with only 8 per cent of its own workforce from the ethnic minorities it was not the ideal model.

The Council also heard a speech from Trevor Carter, vice-chair of HCRE, who also laid the root cause of the riots on the inherent racism in society.



Photo: Neil Martinson

The Forgotten Homeless

If anyone thinks that the institutional hardships that existed in the 1920s and 30s has finally disappeared, you will be sadly mistaken. For a report just out shows that in Hackney there are hundreds of families who, through the policies of the local Council, are forced to live in appallingly overcrowded conditions, with hardly any amenities, for which they can be charged over £200 a week.

The report, 'Homeless in Hackney', has been produced by Hackney Homeless Action, with the help of other local groups including Hackney Under Fives, Hackney Women's Aid and the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations. It investigates the plight of families who have been declared homeless by the local authority and placed in the notorious 'short stay' bed and breakfast hotels in the Finsbury Park area.

There are as many as 400 'homeless' families living in these hotels, sent there by the Housing Department as a temporary measure until they can be rehoused. Although this type of accommodation was never intended for long-term use, people can often be kept waiting here for over a year.

These 'hotels' have very little in common with the hotels used by holidaymakers, for here the families have to put up with cramped and insanitary conditions, sharing meagre washing and cooking facilities with several other people, and trying to live as normal a life as possible.

One of the families who have had to put up with these conditions is Mr & Mrs Givane who, with their 5 children and 76 year old grandmother, were evicted from their private flat because the landlord wanted it for himself. They were sent to the Central Park Hotel where, for 15 months they have had to live in two tiny rooms. The hotel was clearly contravening the Environmental Health laws, yet the proprietor, a Mr Stephens, has not been prosecuted. He owns six hotels in the Finsbury Park area and for the past ten years he has taken in homeless families from the local authorities, crowding them into his rooms and generating an income of over £680,000 a year. Ironically, he is a member of the Royal Society of Health.

The Chief Environmental Health Officer, also attached

to the RSH, has found that four out of every five of these short stay hotels are statutorily overcrowded and 3 out of 4 have inadequate washing and toilet facilities. Cooking equipment usually consists of a tiny stove which has to be shared with the other residents and often people cook and eat meals in their own room. Not surprisingly, this unhygienic environment has led to a number of outbreaks of infections such as gastro-enteritis, especially among babies and young children.

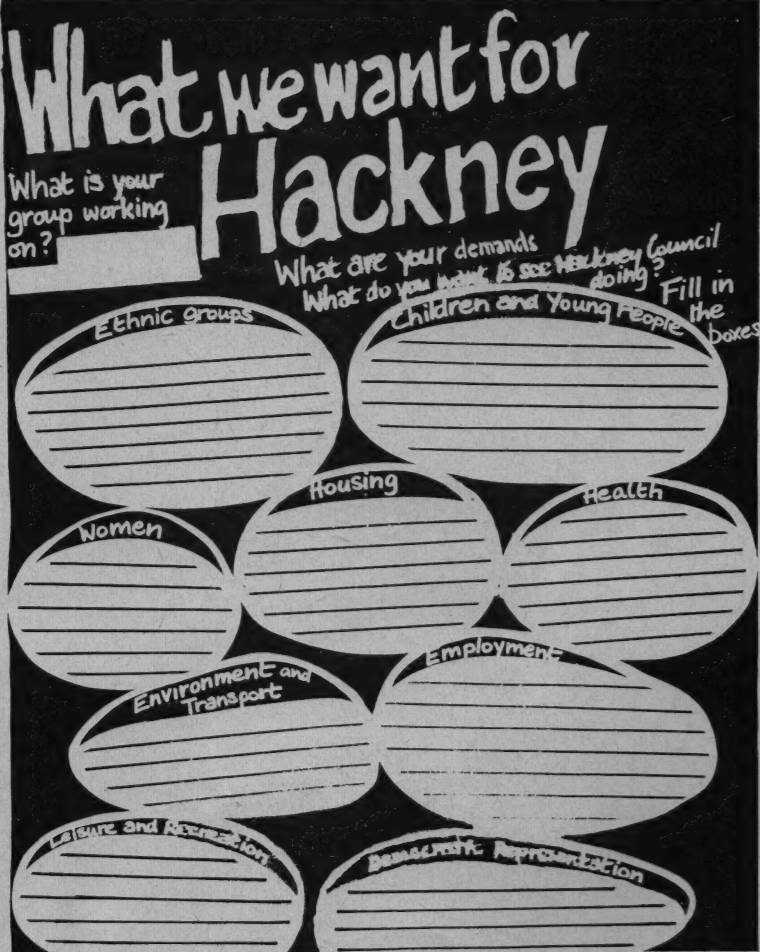
The people forced to live in these institutions are often made homeless through no fault of their own. They are either the victims of eviction by private landlords or have been thrown out by relatives, or have been declared 'intentionally homeless' by the local council or GLC because they are unable to pay their rent. Once inside these hotels, they are at the mercy of the Housing Department and are forced to accept the first offer of alternative accommodation they are given, usually on the worst estates.

The number of evictions from council property has risen quite dramatically over the past 2 years, but even allowing for the fact that more tenants are finding it difficult to cope financially, Hackney Council seem to be adopting a more ruthless attitude towards people in rent arrears.

Hackney Council is aware of the situation affecting these families and accept that the number of people referred to these short stay hotels has to be "reduced to a minimum". After months of delay their answer was to agree to rent increases in the hotels of 600%, so that they could pass on the burden of paying for this accommodation to the shoulders of Central Government, via the DHSS. But the homelessness report found that not all the families staying in the hotels are receiving benefits to pay for their rent.

The recommendations put forward by the authors of the report call on the Council to adopt a more sympathetic approach to homeless families by putting them at the top of the housing waiting list and by developing alternative short-stay accommodation. In the meantime the Council should ensure that the hotels comply with the standards of the Public Health Act.

The most obvious solution would be for the Council to adhere to the policy of providing decent housing for all residents in the borough and, as the report concluded, "there must be a real change in the way that most Councillors and officers view the homeless". At the moment homelessness is an issue which has been shelved all too often by the local authorities and their elected representatives, despite the fact that in 1979 the Housing Department handed over £850,000 to hotel proprietors like Mr Stephens, whose profits grow at the expense of people like the Givanes.



Hackney Community Action, the umbrella group which represents the community organisations in the borough, is sponsoring a conference in October to bring together the ideas and experience of local people to draw up a manifesto for next year's Council elections.

As part of the work for this conference, they have circulated a poster (as illustrated here) to advertise the conference and to be used to gather ideas for the changes that need to be made. You can get full-size copies of the poster from Hackney Community Action - or you can send your ideas direct if you can't wait!

Hackney Community Action is at 380 Old St, EC1 (729 5536).

Drop-in Centre Open

The City and Hackney Association for Mental Health (CHAMH) are looking for willing helpers to assist in the running of a new Drop-In Centre. This is being set up in the vestry of St James' church, Clapton Pond, in association with the Community Psychiatry Research Unit (CPRU), which is based at Hackney Hospital.

The new drop-in centre will provide a place where anyone wishing for company may come for tea, recreation, a chance to talk, or just be in a friendly atmosphere. It is intended to have an open-door policy for anyone to visit the centre, especially psychiatric patients and ex-patients. The centre will be open initially on Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm.

The aim of this project is to provide a centre to which socially isolated or lonely people may freely come and meet others, make friends and enter into a social atmosphere. The result of such social contact is hoped to prevent the decline of some lonely people into a psychiatric condition.

A rota will be set up of volunteers who are available for an hour or two on Thursday afternoons. The volunteers will help to run the centre, and participate in the talking, recreation, etc, in order to generally create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

There. Volunteers will be supported and advised by members of CHAMH and CPRU.

CHAMH is a totally voluntary group of people which promotes services and facilities in Hackney for the mentally ill. They have a couple of housing projects and a "befriender" scheme, in which a volunteer "adopts" a person in need of support on an individual basis. Volunteers at the centre would automatically become members of CHAMH.

CPRU has been set up to provide psychiatric care within the community of Hackney. If a person has no job, or especially no home, then it is likely that their mental health will suffer, therefore CPRU has set up a variety of housing projects (flat-sharing and group homes) to give support to those people. The aim of community psychiatry is thus to identify where a person may be in need of support and care, before a time when they might need admission to a psychiatric hospital.

If you have a few hours available on Thursday afternoons and would like to help at the centre (or would just like to know more about these projects), please ring Alison on 985 5555 ext 225 (daytime) or Jennie on 354 0543 (eves), or write to CPRU, Hackney Hospital, Homerton High Street, Hackney.

Monster Fun



The second London Fields Festival held last month proved that the community spirit is still alive and well, and attracted upwards of 2,000 to the day's events.

This year's carnival parade of local schoolchildren wearing monster costumes and masks accompanied by Graham Read's Futuristic Rhythm Jazz Band and the Evergreen Majorettes, wound its way down the surrounding streets, drawing crowds of local onlookers.

The afternoon's events included a martial arts display, a punch and judo show,

the London Recorder and Sousaphone Ensemble, Ivy Mills - the singing Pearly Queen - while keeping the crowds laughing was Smiley the Clown. The more energetic were able to work off a bit of sweat in the tug of war and other sporting contests, and the not-so energetic could be found in the beer tent run by East London Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). There were many other stalls and sideshows run by local people and they all proved

to be a big hit.

In the evening four local bands - Eric Peachey's Soul Concern, Monkey Business, Walking Wounded and the Ivory Coasters - played to an enthusiastic crowd before the festivities were brought to a spectacular close by an amazingly extravagant firework by Freeform.

The success of the Festival was even more notable for its friendly and trouble-free atmosphere, in striking contrast to the tensions elsewhere in Hackney.

Smiley the Clown and our friendly local bobby enjoy the fun of the Festival (top), while real ale drinkers do it their way

SHARING JOBS

The Hackney Job-sharing Project started in June with funding for three years from partnership and employs two part-time workers to share the one full-time salary. We aim to promote job-sharing in Hackney by talking to employers and unions about the benefits of job-sharing, and by working with people who want to job-share. Although the Hackney Job Share Project is not a job-finding agency, we aim to set up a register to help people to find job-sharing partners with similar skills and experience, and we will help them to write their job applications. We will also be holding monthly meetings to enable people who are interested in job-sharing to get

together.

Job-sharing happens when individuals or employees decide to split what is normally a full-time job into two. The full-time job is shared by two people, both working on a permanent part-time basis.

Job-sharing is for people who, for many and varied reasons, want to work on a more flexible basis. It may be that they wish to study or follow other interests; it may be women or men who wish or need to combine paid work with childcare or it may be older people who would like to ease into retirement and anyone with low enough economic needs who can choose not to work full-time. Job-sharing can also provide an

opportunity for some groups such as handicapped people who might otherwise be unable to work. School leavers may also find their first job much easier if they were able to share it.

Job-sharing has been operating successfully in the UK, Sweden and the USA for a number of years and in a very broad range of jobs. Most kinds of jobs can be and are shared - from doctors, social workers and lecturers to bank clerks, office workers and shop workers.

The next meeting of the Hackney Job-Share Project is on Tuesday 1 September at 8pm in Shoreditch Town Hall, Old Street, EC1.



TEACHERS TO KEEP JOBS

Parents and teachers working together have managed to save at least 18 threatened teachers' jobs after a special meeting of the ILEA sub-committee. Originally, some 85 jobs were at risk, with teachers and other school staff being compulsorily transferred and no vacancies being filled. However, intensive lobbying by parents and teachers from five schools - Benthall, Hackney Downs, William Patten, Gayhurst and Stoke Newington Parochial - means that an extra teacher has now been allocated to each of these schools. In addition, 13 teachers who had not yet received their transfer notices will not now be moved.

"This is a significant victory," a campaigner at Benthall School told HPP. "All the five schools where parents and teachers fought together have won their extra teacher. Altogether we have saved about one-quarter of the threatened places."

Frances Morrell, the new chair of the ILEA schools sub-committee, has promised also that there will be a complete review of all education provision in Hackney. A date has not yet been fixed for this, but it should take place early in the autumn term. She has also promised that there will be regular meetings between teachers' representatives, parents and ILEA.

task force safe

Task Force has been saved at the eleventh hour and the dismissal notices served on the remaining 40 workers were lifted in a new compromise deal.

At a meeting with ACAS on 23 June an agreement was reached between Anthony Steen MP (acting Chair of the Task Force Board of Management), representatives of the prospective new board, Task Force shop stewards and a union official.

The agreement was ratified on 28 July just three days before the dismissal notices to the workers were to come into effect. The agreement allows for nine members of the prospective new board to join the present board of management. There will then be a 3 month period during which the structure and management of the organisation will be reviewed.

During the past few months, with the closure threat hang-

ing over Task Force, thousands of letters have been sent to the Board of Management, and public meetings, lobbies of MPs and pickets of board members have been organised. The workers at Task Force and pensioners have been at the forefront of the fight to save the organisation. The new deal represents a victory in the struggle to maintain living standards and services to pensioners in the face of Government attacks.

WHAT'S ON AUGUST

THEATRE

MUSIC

NEW HALF MOON THEATRE

213 Mile End Road, E1.
(Box Office: 790 4000)
Mon 3 - Sat 15 August:
Eight Day Theatre.
Teatr Osmego Dnia (8th Day Theatre) was set up in Poland in 1964 and this is the first visit to Britain by the group. The main hall-mark of the group has been finding new ways of communicating with audiences. The process of constructing a performance is not limited to the creation of an artistically attractive form but about making statements concerning what the world should be like in order to reach conclusions about what we ourselves should be like. Sounds interesting...

OLD HALF MOON - will be closed throughout August.

LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE

14 Dagmar Pass, Cross St N1.
(Book by phone on: 226 1787)
Daily until 23 August (except Mins & Tues): **The Bewitched Baobab Tree.** An African fairy tale, dramatised by Lily Harzberg and performed by very competent and beautiful rod puppets. Ideal for children of 5 years and over, but a modified version is shown on Saturdays for the very young. Perfs: 3 pm (for children 5yrs & over);
11 am (Saturday matinees).

26 - 30 August: **The Silver Key**
Based on an old German fairy tale, with clowns, a King's treasure, magic wishes, impossible happenings and good humoured knavery with the odd sausage thrown in for good measure.

Perfs: 3 pm; with a matinee performance every Saturday at 11 am.

Tickets: 3 pm performances -
Adults.....£1.75
Children.....£1.25
11 am matinees -
Adults.....£1.25
Children.....£1.00

THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST

Gerry Raffles Square, E15.
(Box Office: 534 0310)
Until Sat 15 August: **Steaming**
by Nell Dunn. With Brenda Blethyn, Georgina Hale, Jo Warne and Maria Charles.
This first play by the author of 'Poor Cow' is set in a Turkish baths and tells of the lives of six very different women and of the cause which eventually unites them.

CINEMA

KONAK CINEMA 11 Stoke Newington Rd (254 2415)

August Programme:

Sun 2: **Clash of the Titans**
Sun 9 (for two weeks): **Raiders of the Lost Ark**
Sun 23: to be confirmed.

All programmes runs for 7 days unless otherwise stated.
Tickets: £1.90 Adults
£1.00 Children

RIO CINEMA 107 Kingsland High St, E8 (254 6677)
For details of this month's programmes, see the Rio ad.

CROWN & CASTLE

Dalston Junction, E8.
(Telephone: 254 3678)
The Meeting Place folk club has Irish folk music every Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night of the week. Plus: The Crown & Castle have just opened their upstairs as Hackney's new alternative cabaret and theatre venue. Keep your eyes open for details of events taking place there.

THE PEGASUS 109 Green Lanes, N16. (226 5930)

Sat 8, 15: **Ivory Coasters** £1.20
Sat 22, 29: **Brian Knight Blues Band** £1.20
Sun 9: **Soul Band** £1
Sun 16: **Red Beans & Rice** £1.20
Sun 23, 30: **Soul Band** £1
Mondays: **Black Market** £1
Tuesdays: **Chip Shop Bar Shop & The Idlers** £1
Wed 12: **Hot Socks** £1
Wed 19, 26: **Mr J.J.** £1
Thursdays: **Hank Wangford** £1.50
Fridays: **The D.Ts.** £1

Open from 8 pm.

MEETINGS

FREE FORM ARTS TRUST

Wednesday 12 August: Dedication of The City Garden, with an exhibition of the projects carried out by Free Form within the local community. There will also be a discussion on the environmental work carried out by the group in Evering Road, Daubeney, Caribbean House and the City Garden. With music and refreshments.
11 am - 12.30 pm at the City Garden, adjacent to 199 Kingsland Road, E2.

HACKNEY LABOUR COMMITTEE ON IRELAND

Tuesday 1 September: Meeting.
8 pm in the Trades & Labour Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

OTHER EVENTS

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

Hackney Council is organising a series of free lessons at three public baths in the borough, in an attempt to reduce the number of people drowned in local rivers, etc. The lessons will run on Mondays to Fridays throughout August and will be open to anyone aged between 4 and 94 years. The times and places of the lessons are:

Lower Clapton Baths: 9 am-12 noon
Whiston Rd Baths: 9-11 am
Clissold Rd Baths: 9-11 am.
Further details from the Directorate of Leisure Services, Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT. (739 7600)

FESTIVAL DATES

30 & 31 August: Finsbury Park Carnival will be taking place on the Bank Holiday weekend.



Rod puppets at the Little Angel Marionette Theatre in "The Bewitched Baobab Tree".

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SMALL ADS

A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER is required for the "Health In Homerton" project, currently based at Lower Clapton Health Centre.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of health as a local issue by involving the community collectively. An interest in health is vital. Salary is £5,361-£6,839 pa inclusive (pay award pending).

For an informal discussion, ring Ms J Robinson on 533 1525 or Ms F Winkler at the Community Health Council on 739 6308.

Application form and job description are available from the Personnel Department of St Bart's Hospital, London EC1, tel 600 9000 ex 3186, quoting reference BCA/115. Closing date 21 August.

If you want a free listing in our What's On section, send details of your event to HPP, Listings for September should arrive by Friday 21 August.

ADVERTISEMENT



Tel : 254 6677

Weekly programme

Mon 3 for six days: HERBIE GOES BANANAS

Mon 10 for six days: CONDORMAN

Mon 17 for six days: SUPER SNOOPER and SINBAD AND THE EYE OF THE TIGER

Mon 24 for six days: To be decided

Mon 31 for six days: Week of black films and poetry, including BABYLON, HARDER THEY COME, SMILE ORANGE, ROCKERS plus live bands. Ring cinema for details.

Mon 7 for six days: CHARIOTS OF FIRE

Sunday Matinee

Sunday 9 Aug: THE DEER HUNTER

Late nights

Fri 7 and Sat 8: THE DEER HUNTER

Autumn Courses

Hackney Workers Educational Association have released details of their autumn programme of courses which start in September. The full programme will be in next month's issue of HPP, but a brief summary of the courses follows here:

Alternatives To Everything is a series of meetings and discussions with guest speakers, including Bob Rowthorn, Anna Coote, Jean Coussins and Mike Cooley. Ten weekly meetings, starting Wed 14 October.

Community Care Workshop examines community alternatives to prisons, mental hospitals, etc on a local basis. Fortnightly starting Wed 23 September.

Writing Workshop is a new day-time course for people who are interested in writing, looking at all kinds of writing and techniques. Ten weekly meetings starting Wed 7 October.

Film Course - *From The New Deal To McCarthyism* is a look at politics in the American cinema from the 1930s to the 1950s. Complete screenings of many famous films, plus extracts from many others. Eight fortnightly meetings starting Tues 27 October.

You can get a free leaflet advertising all the events from Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8, or by post from Hackney WEA, 76 Carysfort Road, N16 (please enclose an sae).

CHAT'S PALACE is closed for August except for Sunday lunchtime jazz and usual times for the bar.

'RESERVE ARMY'

The dole office at Spurstowe Terrace was closed as part of the recent Civil Service strike. With no benefit payments and the prospect of starvation, over 300 unemployed people marched on Hackney Town Hall on Thursday 16 July to demand emergency payments from the Council. The previous Tuesday the dole office in Spurstowe Terrace was closed by the management and the staff suspended, in response to Civil Servants' refusal to handle scab giros.

At 1pm there was a meeting of about 130 unemployed people at Centerprise, organised jointly by Islington Action Group on unemployment and Hackney Right To Work campaign, with a speaker from the Civil Service union CPSA.

The meeting decided on four demands to put to the council and pledged its support for the civil servants.

The meeting then broke up and everyone set off to the town hall where there were another 200 unemployed people.

The demands of the unemployed were: emergency payments; no eviction of council tenants for non-payment of rent; and that council provide premises and funding for an unemployed workers' centre run and controlled by unem-



Ernie Greenwood

ployed people. The demands were won.

The Council leader, John Kotz, and Joe Noble, secretary of the Hackney Joint Shop Stewards Committee, spoke to the mass meeting. Emergency payments were promised of £33 for married couples, £20 for single householders and £15 for non-householders - and Joe Noble emphasised that these were not scab payments. Also promised were no Council evictions, that the gas and electricity boards would be contacted and Councillor Kotz promised an unemployed centre "by September". The success of collective pressure was shown.

At that time the Civil Service unions had been taking selective strike action for 19 weeks because the government refused to negotiate over their demands for a realistic wage increase. The government has offered 7 per cent (a wage cut of 5 per cent, since inflation is 12 per cent). Already half the workers at Spurstowe Terrace have to claim supplementary benefit.

Since the Department of Employment computer centre at Reading was pulled out, workers at dole offices have been writing giro cheques by hand. Then, in an attempt to escalate the industrial action in face of the government's intransigence, a picket was put on the Watford office which issues the blank giro cheques. This picket was crossed by management and a number of pickets were injured in the process. The workers at Spurstowe Terrace refused to write these scab giros and were suspended and the office was closed.

Islington Action Group on

Unemployment, as part of the London and South East Federation of Unemployed Groups, and Hackney Right To Work campaign worked closely with the CPSA in informing those signing on at Spurstowe Terrace about the situation, and gaining assurances that essential supplies such as gas and electricity would not be cut off for non-payment of bills.

The unemployed have resisted attempts by the government to turn them against the civil servants and second only to ensuring that they receive their benefits have supported those on strike. The unemployed see that their fight for jobs or benefits at full trade union rates is directly linked to the civil servants' struggle for a realistic wage increase.

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS UNION

The events of the last few weeks--the closure of Spurstown Terrace and the success in gaining Emergency Payments from the Town Hall--have resulted in the formation of the Hackney Unemployed Workers Union.

On Wednesday July 22nd a Meeting of some forty unemployed people was held, jointly organised by Hackney Right to Work Campaign and Islington Unemployed Action Group. This discussed the then present situation. It also saw the setting up of the Union. It was decided by the Meeting to call itself such, for a variety of reasons. Firstly as with any other Union, Unemployed

people have particular problems and common interests. It also recognises the fact that the Unemployed can only achieve their primary aim - of having the chance of a decent job - if they act in Unity with the Employed. Hence one of the main aims of the Union is to help set-up a National Union affiliated to the TUC.

At a local level this means that the Union is pressing for affiliation to Hackney Trades Council with voting rights. We are also working to ensure that when the council/TUC organised Unemployment Centre is set up it is really the unemployed themselves who determine its use.

The other aims of the Union are to attempt to improve the conditions for those on the dole or supplementary benefit. The first demand is that all benefits are at least index-linked to inflation so that, unlike at the moment, their real value is not reduced. Again, this can only be achieved by pressure at a national level. Secondly we will be investigating the possibilities of gaining free transport and the use of council leisure facilities.

More immediately, we have and will be monitoring private landlords and putting pressure on councillors to ensure there are no evictions of claimants receiving only flat-rate emergency payments. The Council has already promised not to evict those claimants who get into difficulties. Similarly we are trying to ensure there are no cut-offs of electricity or gas, both through the council and through contacts with the relevant unions. We are, and have been, also establishing contacts with the Civil Service unions and, of course, other unemployed groups. We will be canvassing support from TU branches and the Labour Party and, finally, a large public meeting is being organised for September.

Once the Unemployed Centre is set up - a site has been agreed on - the range of activities can be much extended. For example, there should be creche facilities and space for both social and more political projects. These must be determined by the users.

If you are a claimant and are interested in becoming involved, contact us either through Box 40, 136 Kingsland High Street, or phone Nick on 533 2669.

Marxist for SDP

Hackney Councillor Denis Trim's resignation from the Labour Party may have come as a surprise to the Hackney Gazette, which carried the story as its lead at the end of July, but it had long been expected by people inside and outside the Labour Party. Northfield Ward, which Trim represents, has long been regarded as a possible site for the first defections. And it was no surprise that Trim should go on about far-left infiltration of the Labour Party.

What appears to have driven him past the point of no return was that he was most unlikely to get reselected by his ward for the next round of council elections. Ironically, the ward had already decided to nominate anyone to the panel of possible candidates who was proposed and seconded, and Trim was one of the six so proposed. But he knew that he would not get past the shortlist, for very good reasons.

Complaint

There have been many complaints from Northfield Ward residents that councillors do not take up cases on their behalf and are reluctant to attend the surgeries that they are supposed to run.

In a desperate effort to get support in his ward, Trim had been trying to persuade local people to join the Labour Party - but with very little success. Most of the people he proposed were not aware of what they were doing, and never bothered to pay their membership fees, let alone attend meetings.

Trim had also been a poor chair of the Health and Consumer Protection Committee, where he seemed to have little grasp of the matters under debate. He was removed from this post in April, and was piqued at this rejection by the Old Guard of Hackney politics.

So now he is off to join the Social Democrats, although what the SDP will make of a man who told the Gazette that he was a Marxist is debatable. A spokesperson for the Hackney Anarchist Party (Groucho-Marxist) also described Trim's labelling of Councillors Keith Lichman, Patrick Kodikara and Peter Kahn as "anarchists" as a gross slander on themselves. "We are consulting our Central Committee to see what action can be taken at this moment in time," he said. (See "Inside Left", page 2.)

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS has regular meetings on Mondays at 8pm at our new office at 47a Grayling Road, N.16. (Down access road beside no.47). If you would like to help write, produce or sell the next issue, then please come along. Or you can ring 806 9211 (evenings and weekends) or leave a message for us on 809 2889 (days).

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

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